



# Department of Psychology Colloquium

## Establishing Verbal Capabilities for Secondary Students with Reading Delays

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Room 2722, Wood Hall

Verbal capabilities are developmental stages that enable a learner to acquire more complex, advanced verbal behavior. Research suggests that identifying and teaching verbal capabilities, and their subcomponents when they are missing, can facilitate the acquisition of more advanced verbal stages. For example, teaching a non-vocal student to match auditory stimuli can facilitate the acquisition of speech when cannot be acquired incidentally or with direct instruction. In the current presentation, I will discuss verbal capabilities and reader-writer repertoires for secondary students with reading delays. Specifically, I will describe the characteristics of secondary students with reading delays and then discuss verbal capabilities that may potentially help them acquire reading comprehension. Finally, I will describe a research program designed to identify and teach missing verbal capabilities for secondary students with reading delays.